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Thursday, February 26, 2015

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CARDEL HOMES

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FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF

Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson announced his resignation Wednesday, saying he'll be leaving his post as of March 13. The 40-year veteran of policing, whose policies as chief are widely credited with Calgary's dropping crime rates, was coy about his future plans. Some think politics may be in store for Hanson. For more, turn to page 4. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Alberta mulls over killing cap on tuition

Education. Student backlash likely if door opened to cost hikes

The cash-strapped provincial government is considering cutting — or outright eliminating — existing restrictions on Alberta tuition increases, Metro has learned.

Currently, tuition in the province is capped at the rate of inflation. This year's allowed increase was a maximum of 2.2 per cent.

But multiple sources have said the government may allow for larger increases as it looks for ways to make Alberta's post-secondary sector more financially sustainable, especially as the province stares down projected deficits of $7 billion this year and the next.

In a statement, Craig Loewen, press secretary for Advanced Education Minister Don Scott, neither confirmed nor denied the hardline cap was being reviewed.

"The premier has been clear that this is not business as usual," he said in a statement. "Minister Scott has been mandated to work with Campus Alberta partners to create and implement a plan for long-term stable and predictable funding. That work is underway, but I'm not able to discuss or speculate on the upcoming budget."

David Atkinson, president of Edmonton's MacEwan University, said administrators had heard rumblings the government is considering killing the cap.

"I don't anticipate anything is going to occur for next year, because our tuition has already been established for next year and it would be an act of bad faith to change things at this late date," he noted.

University of Calgary Students' Union representative Levi Nilson said such a move "changes the game" and would prompt swift backlash from students. LEAH HOLOIDAY AND JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Parents happy to get first look at new schools

Education. CBE trustee says commitment to full build has made things more 'upbeat'

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Rebecca Shea, left, and Lindsay Ingram survey plans for a new middle school in Cranston. The duo currently serve as co-chairs of the elementary school in Cranston and helped organize meetings to advocate for the middle school. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Talk of starter-school shortcomings and construction timelines took a back seat Wednesday night, as many parents got their first look at the buildings where their kids could soon learn.

"I feel like the bulk of the work is done, because the work was fighting to get the school," said Lindsay Ingram, co-chair of the parent council at Cranston School. "It's going to happen, and if it takes two years, it takes two years."

Her group recently arranged a meeting attended by about 150 parents, many of whom were concerned about a proposed modular-based starter middle school that would eventually be converted to a fully built facility.

But just last week the Alberta government announced it would skip the starter site and proceed directly to a new school, with plans of opening it only a few months later.

"It's more upbeat now that we have a commitment and we know when that full build is coming," said Calgary Board of Education (CBE) trustee Amber Stewart, whose riding includes Cranston. "I think people always knew something was coming, but it's certainly more exciting knowing that the full school will be there, the full programming will be there, that the full needs of the community are one step closer to being met."

Designs for the Cranston school were among eight on display at an open house at CBE headquarters Wednesday.

The CBE had hoped to show off 10 sites in total, but the architects behind an elementary school in Copperfield and another in New Brighton didn't show. A board spokesperson said consultations will instead be held in those two communities at a later date.

Those on display included middle schools in West Springs and Royal Oak, both an elementary and a middle school in Saddle Ridge and other elementary sites in Aspen Woods and Evanston.

Vivian Manasc's firm is behind the schematics for the Saddle Ridge elementary. She said the hope is the design of the school will act as the "third teacher," after parents and instructors. Large windows and plenty of open space is the name of the game.

"How are you supposed to learn about nature and weather and science and all those things if you can't see it around you?" she said.

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An emotional Rick Hanson speaks to reporters Wednesday as he announces plans to step down as police chief. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Hanson says Calgary Police Service left in 'great hands'

Law enforcement. Chief steps down after 40 years in policing, seven as head of CPS

MORGAN MODJESKI
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For four decades, Chief Rick Hanson has served his community from behind a badge. On Wednesday, the man credited with making Calgary "safer than it has been in a generation" stepped down from his post.

Speaking to a room crowded with media, police officers and city officials, including Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Hanson said his time with the force was coming to an end.

"Forty years is a long time in policing," said an emotional Hanson on Wednesday.

"Everybody has got a shelf life, and believe me — and you can talk to anybody in this organization, anybody in the union — anybody will tell you that I've always been very conscious about shelf life."

"There's nothing more pathetic than the person that overstays their welcome," Hanson added. "There's nothing more pathetic than the guy that clings onto their position because of whatever reason.... You've got to lead and recognize when the right people are there to carry on."

Hanson said his decision to step down was made "months ago," and on March 13, he'll leave the force behind, saying the service will be in "great hands."

"We are hugely proud of the executive team that stands behind you, that's been hand-selected, who will step up to the plate and who are able to move this police service forward in ways that go well beyond me," he said.

Justice Minister Jonathan Denis thanked Hanson for his work in a written statement, noting Hanson has made "a significant contribution to the law-enforcement community in our province."

Rodney Fong, chairman of the Calgary Police Commission, said Tuesday's meeting in which Hanson tendered his retirement was "certainly one of the saddest and the most difficult commissions that myself and many of my fellow commissioners ever attended."

Mayor Nenshi has described Hanson as "the best chief in Canada" and, on Wednesday, called him "the best chief anywhere."

"On behalf of the citizens of Calgary, we look to you with enormous gratitude for everything that you've done with the service and with our community," said Nenshi. "You've done an incredible job in bringing up amazing leaders, and I see many of them standing at the back of the room today. That would not have happened without your extraordinary leadership."

Hanson said he wouldn't publicly endorse a new candidate as his replacement, adding the person "best capable of running this service" is already working within the CPS.

Resignation

Chief leaves 'big shoes to fill'

The departure of Calgary's police chief came as a surprise to many, and while Rick Hanson's career will end March 13, his legacy will continue.

Starting with the Calgary Police Service in 1975, Hanson has worked in law enforcement for 40 years. After a two-year stint as the RCMP K Division's chief superintendent in charge of integrated and federal policing, he was made police chief in 2007. Hanson has been credited with taking an innovate approach to policing through his "Crime Prevention and Reduction Continuum," aimed at reducing crime through proactive measures.

Rodney Fong, chair of the Calgary Police Commission, said that during his time, Hanson "forged lasting partnerships" with agencies supporting the city's most vulnerable.

Mike Shaikh, past chair of the police commission, also credited Hanson with addressing a serious gang problem in Calgary, noting that if the city continues on the path set under his leadership, it has the potential to become "the safest city in the country in 2016."

Fong said the commission now has a tough job ahead in finding a new chief, saying, "His will be big shoes to fill."

The veteran lawman was also a driving force behind the integration of technology into CPS. Hanson told Metro in 2013 the benefits of his officers sharing information on Twitter "have been tremendous."

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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Chief a 'natural fit' for Alberta Tories: Prof

Police Chief Rick Hanson's sudden resignation Wednesday fuelled speculation he could take a shot at elected office — and it should, according to a political scientist.

"It's not just because he's resigning right as we're about to go into an Alberta election, but he resigned on two weeks' notice, not, 'Here's six months; let's find a successor,'" said Duane Bratt, professor at Mount Royal University. "It's 'I'm leaving as quickly as possible,' and it's not for health reasons. He never gave a reason."

The ruling Progressive Conservative government would be the "natural fit," Bratt said.

Bratt said Hanson joining the Tories would signal more renewal in the Jim Prentice government and he could fill a prominent role in the cabinet — but not justice minister, as that requires a law degree.

The Tories have yet to nominate representatives in Calgary's Bow, Cross, Fort, Mackay-Nose Hill, McCall, Shaw and Varsity ridings. But Hanson said he wasn't thinking past March 13, his last day with the CPS.

Still, he added, "All I know is that at 60 years old, coming up 61, if I'm going to do anything else, it's going to be now.... I'm going to just now take the time to decide what it is that I want to do, where I can have impact, where I can still contribute in some way, and I don't know what that looks like … but I'll figure it out." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Laurie Quon, right, and Ken Bilous, members of the Save the Slopes organization, said the slopes are a piece of Calgary's heritage, with Bilous adding, "Once it's gone, it's gone." JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Organizers prepare to 'Save the Slopes'

Development. As plans advance for the Paskapoo Slopes project, an opposition group is rallying to protect 'legacy' site

Quoted

"It's about saving a piece of Calgary's legacy, building on that legacy and preserving it."

Ken Bilous, a member of the advocacy group Save the Slopes

As Trinity Development Group aims to bring its Paskapoo Slopes development in front of city council this summer, opponents in nearby communities are re-mobilizing against the proposed "Whistler Village-style" residential-commercial project.

Trinity acquired the land just east of Canada Olympic Park in April 2013 from previous, private owners and plans to turn part of the green space into a mixed-use development called Trinity Hills.

But not everyone agrees with the proposition.

Large portions of Paskapoo Slopes are considered "environmentally significant," according to the city, including some archeological sites dating back more than 5,000 years.

Laurie Quon and Ken Bilous, members of a group called Save the Slopes, said the area should be preserved as a piece of natural heritage.

"It's about saving a piece of Calgary's legacy, building on that legacy and preserving it rather than just building development after development," said Bilous.

Quon said many community members want the land preserved, noting that on Jan. 17, the Bowness Community Association passed a motion officially opposing the development.

Trinity spokesman Cameron Wallace said he recognizes the area is "environmentally sensitive" and noted just 100 acres will be developed while the remaining 160 acres will be dedicated to the city and preserved.

Senior city planner David Couroux said the policy to develop the slopes was approved by the city in 2005, but councillors must review any plan before breaking ground. He said the city has been pitched "four or five" different projects on the Paskapoo Slopes since the 1980s, and each has been rejected.

Save the Slopes has planned a fundraiser for March 7 at the Bowness Community Association, hoping to also raise public awareness about preserving the land.

"This isn't a Cougar Ridge or Bowness issue," said Quon. "This is a city issue."

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

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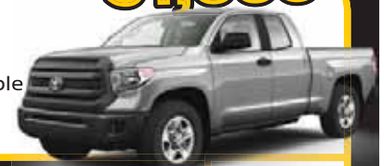

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SATURDAY
SING ALONG WITH MARY AT FESTIVAL HALL

Join the Cowtown Opera Company as they sing along with the classic musical Mary Poppins. There will be a projection screen with lyrics and live orchestral accompaniment. cowtownoperacompany.com

SUNDAY
CABINETS OF CURIOSITY AT THE GLENBOW MUSEUM

Edmonton artist Lyndal Osborne has spent years collecting weird and wonderful objects from places she's lived and visited. These curiosities will be on display at the Glenbow for the rest of the year. glenbow.org

Viet Cong keep calm, carry on amid hype

Music. Calgary post-punk four-piece is having a big year with acclaimed debut album, sold-out shows

SCENE YYC
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

Buzzed-about Calgary quartet Viet Cong kicks off its latest tour Thursday night at the Commonwealth. The band recently released its self-titled debut album to critical acclaim. COURTESY DAVID WALDMAN

If there's any stress involved with being part of one of the most-talked-about buzz bands in the world right now, Matt Flegel isn't letting it show.

Enjoying the sunshine on the back porch of his new home in Nanaimo, the bassist and vocalist of Calgary-based post-punk band Viet Cong says he's not focusing on the uniformly rave reviews and sudden fervent interest in the group.

"I'm just trying to take it all in stride," Flegel says.

"Nanaimo is my little decompression unit."

Born from the ashes of critically acclaimed local quartet Women (which came to an abrupt end in 2010 when Flegel and his brother Patrick got into an altercation on stage in Victoria), Viet Cong has wowed critics and more sophisticated music fans with its icy, brooding dark wave melodies and evocative, emotive instrumentation.

Flegel's calm demeanour is at odds with the frenzy surrounding Viet Cong and its self-titled debut album.

In addition to receiving high praise from taste-making music magazines, the band recently returned from a 14-day tour of Europe, during which all but one show sold out.

Its upcoming tour, kicking off Thursday night at the Commonwealth, has already seen an L.A. gig moved from a 380-person venue to the 680-person Echoplex. And Viet Cong's June 13 show at the acclaimed Music Hall of Williamsburg in New York City sold out in under an hour.

"Everything seems to be happening pretty fast this time around," says Flegel, who previously played with Viet Cong guitarist and co-founder Scott Munro in the touring band of Polaris Prize-nominated Calgary musician Chad VanGaalen.

Viet Cong is rounded out by drummer Michael Wallace and guitarist Danny Christiansen, who Flegel credits for reminding the more road-weary band members just how lucky they are to be able to play shows across North America and Europe.

"I don't want to say that the rest of us are jaded, but we've been to these places a few times before," Flegel explains.

"It's the first time Danny has toured Europe, so he's excited about it, and that excitement has rubbed off on us, which is a good thing."

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BETWEEN:
ROBERT SCHUETT PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION *(Plaintiff)*
AND: **DON TROTCHIE** *(Defendant)*

To: DON TROTCHIE
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Lo to run for Alberta Party in old riding

Terrence Lo METRO FILE

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Terrence Lo, the former Wildrose vice-president for Calgary-Glenmore who resigned last fall over concerns the party was controlled by an "angry, bigoted" cabal opposed to gay rights, now plans to run as a candidate for the Alberta Party in the same constituency.

"I departed Wildrose over the human-rights thing, and they still haven't really corrected it," Lo said Wednesday.

After spending some time in the "political wilderness," Lo said he met with Alberta Party leader Greg Clark about doing communications work for the party, as he had done with Wildrose.

"The next thing I find out is that they saw me as a viable candidate because of my social-media work and my exposure and everything, so they asked me to run," he said.

In his November resignation letter to the Wildrose, Lo said that as an Asian atheist who's a father to a gay son, he couldn't in good conscience stick with the party after members rejected a policy statement promising to respect the rights of minority groups, including gays and lesbians.

Kids get their first skate lesson at a mobile skate park set up in the community of Edgemont. COURTESY CITY OF CALGARY

Calgary puts skate park on hold

Edgemont. Petition halts skate-park plan at desired location; development believed delayed 3 to 9 months

HELEN PIKE
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Weeks after a group of concerned Edgemont residents petitioned against a proposed skate park, the community association says it's disappointed in the city's decision to put the project on hold.

Word of the delay came during a Tuesday-evening meeting between the association, city planners, Coun. Sean Chu and a group of concerned residents.

Barry Slusarchuk told Metro that residents like him are not opposed to a park but feel the location shouldn't be in a residential area, suggesting alternate locations with more parking, better visibility and other amenities would be better suited.

But Elspeth Kirk of the Edgemont Community Association said the John Laurie location met very specific criteria set by the city, including parking, access to transit and visibility.

"It's going to be difficult to find something that isn't as close or closer to residential in other areas," Kirk said.

"This is not an Edgemont park, it's not a phase-one park; it's a City of Calgary park. We already have activities similar to this in that park."

In an interview Wednesday, Chu commended both sides at the meeting and said he was glad the city is reconsidering locations because it was an "us against them" situation in the community.

The Calgary Association of Skateboarding Enthusiasts was not included in discussions Tuesday. Zev Klymochko, co-chair for the group, said they are disappointed in the decision and hope that if no other location can be found, money from the project will go into the city's other skateboard park projects.

"We're disappointed that a small group of misinformed, ignorant residents can block something like a skate park," he said.

It's believed the park development has been put on hold for three to nine months.

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Strathmore

RCMP hunts men who robbed gas station at gunpoint

Strathmore RCMP are looking for two men who, armed with handguns, robbed a gas station in Rocky View County.

The two men entered The Filling Station in Wrangler Park at about 10:20 a.m. on Saturday, according to police, demanding money from the employees.

The men fled on foot to the north of the building into a vehicle and away, according to police. A cellphone robbed from one of the employees was recovered a short distance away.

One suspect is described as a white man, about five-foot-seven and weighing 180 to 190 pounds, with blue eyes. The other suspect is described as Asian, about the same height, with a slender build. METRO

Carstairs

Friend took home invasion victim to hospital: RCMP

RCMP say they're awaiting the results of toxicology tests before releasing how a man who was rushed to a Calgary hospital from Carstairs died.

The victim hasn't been identified, but is believed to have been wounded in a home invasion on a rural property.

RCMP revealed Tuesday that the victim was driven to a Calgary hospital by a friend, who was present during the home invasion. That person is co-operating with the investigation, RCMP said.

The investigation continues in and around the home.

"We believe that it's not a random attack," RCMP spokeswoman Sharon Franks said Tuesday. METRO

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Kevin Kobelka, the executive director of Hockey Calgary, says the more players in a pool base, the stronger the teams get. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Boundaries to change in local hockey

Hockey Calgary.
City growth creating uneven numbers among communities

MORGAN MODJESKI
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Some hockey players in Calgary may be wearing different jerseys next year, as the body overseeing roughly 14,000 players is working to redraw community association boundaries in the city.

Kevin Kobelka, executive director of Hockey Calgary, said rapid growth might lead to a competitive imbalance in some parts of Calgary as the city continues to grow.

With some community associations having 400 to 500 players while others edge towards, and even over, the 1,000 mark, he said the bigger ones may be getting a better selection of young hockey stars.

"The base drives your quality," he said. "The more players you have to pick from, the stronger your teams are."

Hockey Calgary has already formed a boundary subcommittee and is working with each community association to ensure all are involved as the process moves forward.

Now, the group is collecting information about player population and age groups to help the governing body make the best decisions.

"We all have our opinions and it's a very difficult process," he said.

"Everybody is very passionate about the association they play for, but from Hockey Calgary's perspective, we have to look at the greater good of the game."

Kobelka noted Hockey Calgary is trying to ensure every association has an optimal amount of players, which means the potential expansion or division of certain associations.

"There might be some issues, and there might be some people not happy with moving associations, but in the big picture and the long term, that's what's best for hockey in Calgary," he said.

While the redrawing process is in its early stages, the group hopes to have some of the new boundaries in place for the 2015-16 season, but noted it's dependent on how the process unfolds.

By the numbers

1,000

Some of Calgary's hockey community associations have over 1,000 players, according to Hockey Calgary

Charter-schools cap on the block

Education. Limit to the number of charter schools, allowed only in Alberta, draws debate

Many charter schools such as Westmount in Northwest Calgary have long wait lists. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Alberta's new Education Act may lift restrictions on the number of charter schools in the province, but critics are questioning the changes.

Presently, there are 13 charter schools in Alberta — six in Calgary. The existing act says there can't be more than 15, but the Alberta School Boards Association pointed out that such a cap doesn't exist in draft regulations that were made public in mid-December.

"We don't understand the rationale for it," said president Helen Clease, noting charters are supposed to provide alternative educational opportunities not available in public and common private schools.

Alberta is the only province to allow charter schools and fund them publicly. The very existence of them has proven controversial in the past.

Last year, Calgary Board of Education (CBE) trustee Joy Bowen-Eyre questioned why her organization was being asked to turn over property rights on five buildings as class sizes swelled and more public-school students were being forced to hop on the bus. At the time, the CBE had six charter schools occupying 14 of its buildings.

"If we give all 14 away, that means we're giving 8,000 spaces away when we need 25 schools," Bowen-Eyre said.

But Joe Frank, the superintendent for Westmount Charter School, said the benefit of having facilities like his boils down to parental choice.

A statement from Alberta Education spokesperson Rohit Sandhu cautioned that no final decisions on the Education Act regulations have been made.

There is still more time to apply for **Personal Credits of up to $3000** for educational, language or cultural programs.

Individuals who received a Common Experience Payment under the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement are eligible for up to $3000 in Personal Credits for education programs and services.

These include courses at universities, colleges, trade or training schools or for programs and workshops provided by community-based groups or cultural centres for activities related to Aboriginal language and culture. Personal Credits can be used by a Common Experience Payment recipient, shared with up to two family members or pooled for group education services.

The deadline to apply has been extended to **March 9, 2015**. Help with completing the Personal Credits Acknowledgment Form is available.

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Edmonton police learn of alleged ISIL recruiter

RCMP tip. Police say community engagement is the key to curbing extremism

LEAH HOLOIDAY
Metro in Edmonton

Edmonton police say they weren't aware of an alleged ISIL recruiter in Edmonton until RCMP told EPS that Canada's public broadcaster was releasing a story about local radicalization.

Insp. Dan Jones of EPS Investigative Support Branch told media Wednesday that police are actively investigating radicalization in Edmonton, but couldn't confirm any details about the alleged recruiter.

Jones said EPS depends on a number of community partners to keep them informed on possible issues, including the media.

"As a police agency, our number one focus right now is community engagement with our youth, with our school resource officers, with our community partners from the CAC and we're working towards that end to make sure we're in front of those types of possibilities," he said, calling the community the police's strongest weapon.

The statements come on the heels of a video released by Al-Shabab over the weekend, which targeted malls across around the world, including West Edmonton Mall.

Jones said recruitment into a religious extremist group or a local gang is very similar — people are just looking for a place to belong.

"People go into things for all kinds of reasons," he added. "It's about making people feel like they belong in different realms and what we can do to stop that kind of stuff, is work closely with our community members."

Jones advised anyone who may be concerned about their loved ones being radicalized, to contact police. People can call EPS at 780-423-4567 or by #377 from a mobile phone.

Ins. Dan Jones of EPS Investigative Support Branch. LEAH HOLOIDAY/METRO

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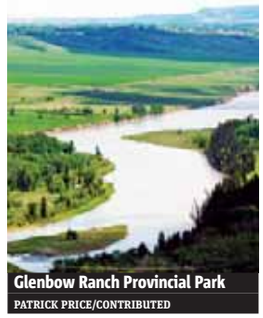
Bearspaw Trail. Group asks for public funding for Calgary-to-Cochrane route

There's a trail in the works — not to get you from point A to B, but C to C.

The Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation is raising funds for the Bearspaw Trail, which would connect Calgary and Cochrane.

"Wouldn't you like to bike or walk from Calgary to Cochrane to get ice cream?" foundation executive director Susan de Caen said. "We want to make certain people who are using the regional pathway system in Calgary can actually go further than they do."

With a tight deadline, the foundation is looking to raise $100,000 by July 1 to build 2.2 kilometres of trail.



Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park
PATRICK PRICE/CONTRIBUTED

The deadline coincides with a goal to have the first phase of the pathway complete before next year's snowfall.

The foundation is asking families in both communities to dig up some change to help pave the way.

On the city's end, a trail connecting Haskayne Park and Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park will be complete in 2017. The approximately four-kilometre stretch will connect the two, making it easy for bikers and hikers to make their way from the city's core all the way to the northwest city limit, where it would connect with the trail to Cochrane.

"Our regional pathway system is one of the heaviest used park amenities that we have," said Doug Marter, manager of planning and development with city of Calgary Parks. "We have easily 2,000 to 5,000 people a day."

He added as far as the new stretch of pathway goes, there aren't goals in place for daily travellers, but he's confident use of the trail will grow over time. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Alberta. Premier Jim Prentice cuts salaries of political staff by 5 per cent

A dozen political staff working for Alberta Premier Jim Prentice are taking a pay cut.

Prentice says they will reduce their total annual salaries of $2 million by five per cent to show leadership in difficult financial times.

The Premier says the wage rollback will save about $104,000.

Wildrose Opposition Leader Heather Forsyth says the salary cuts are long past due as the premier's staff are among the highest paid in Canada.

All 87 members of the legislature are also taking a five per cent pay cut.

The Liberals and the NDP have called the cuts token gestures, and have predicted that ordinary Albertans will be on the hook to make up for billions expected to be drained from the treasury by low oil prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

An uncanny resemblance?

A Google satellite image of Ontario's Newmarket Health Centre, a long-term care facility, is going viral with some publications in the United Kingdom and adult magazine Playboy, suggesting it "resembles a man with a dangling penis." In the picture, the building looks like a man with his legs spread and his genitals exposed. Media outlets and readers on social media sites have been giggling over the naughty picture. The Region of York, which owns the building, was unable to track down the name of the architect who came up with the x-rated design in 1951.

PHOTO: GOOGLE MAPS

TEXT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Challenging' talks are expected at roundtable

Ottawa. Discussions will include Aboriginal and government representatives, as well as families of missing, murdered women

Getting Canada's Aboriginal Peoples, the provinces and territories and the federal government to gather together in the same room is no small feat.

But familiar sticking points are sure to return during this week's roundtable meeting on the issue of murdered and missing aboriginal women — particularly when it comes to deciding who will pay for and administer the parts of a plan to end the violence.

That could result in some "challenging discussions" among the groups when they gather Friday in the ballroom of a downtown Ottawa hotel, Assembly of First Nations national chief Perry Bellegarde said Wednesday.

"It'll be the jurisdictional piece — who's paying from the feds and the provinces, who's responsible, you know, in terms of financial investments, that's going to be an issue and ongoing, where the resources are coming from," Bellegarde said in an interview.

"The who, what, when and why, when it comes to the administration of it."

Both Bellegarde and Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod, who is chairing the meeting, say most of the details of the plan have already been worked out and Friday's meeting will mostly be about putting on the finishing touches.

But there are still big question marks — including who pays for what.

The roundtable will bring together families of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls, groups representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and representatives of the provinces, territories and the federal government.

Four premiers — McLeod, Ontario's Kathleen Wynne, Greg Selinger of Manitoba and Yukon's Darrell Pasloski — are scheduled to attend. The Conservative government, meanwhile, has tapped Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt and Status of Women Minister Kellie Leitch to take part.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Key themes

The agenda has been whittled down to three key themes: prevention and awareness; community safety; and policing measures and justice responses.

- Talk will inevitably turn to a full-blown national inquiry on murdered and missing aboriginal women and girls — something that most people in the room agree is needed but which remains a no-go for the Conservatives.

Manitoba

Community in mourning after fatal fire

A mother was able to save three of her children, but four others died in an early-morning house fire Wednesday in the rural municipality of Morris.

"The adults escaped. The three youngest children were saved by the mother. The four older children who were in the second level of a two-storey home perished in the blaze," said Ralph Groening, reeve for the RM of Morris.

Friends have identified the parents as Jake Froese and Doralee Eberhardt.

Several local media outlets identified the four dead boys as Henry, Danny, Timmy, and Bobby. They ranged in age from nine to 15. People grieved their loss on social media.

The fire is under investigation by the Manitoba Fire Office and the RCMP.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EBay

Bids for Rob Ford's tie reach $1,925

Rob Ford has more items on eBay, including what appears to be the tie he wore on Nov. 5, 2013, when he admitted to smoking crack cocaine. In the description, the former Toronto mayor says the tie is the "only one of these in existence" and features logos from NFL teams past and present. By Wednesday evening, the tie had been bid up to about $1,925. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Three arrested for plot to join ISIL in Syria

U.S. Roughly 20 people charged in past year with planning to travel to Middle East to fight alongside militants

Three men were arrested Wednesday on charges of plotting to travel to Syria to join ISIL and wage war against the U.S., and federal officials said one of them spoke of shooting President Barack Obama or planting a bomb on Coney Island.

Akhror Saidakhmetov was arrested at Kennedy Airport, where he was attempting to board a flight to Istanbul, authorities said. Abdurasul Hasanovich Juraboev had a ticket to travel to Istanbul next month and was arrested in Brooklyn, federal prosecutors said. Abror Habibov, 30, accused of helping fund Saidakhmetov's efforts, was arrested in Florida.

They are charged with attempt and conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist organization. If convicted, each faces a maximum of 15 years in prison.

"This is real," said William Bratton, commissioner of the New York Police Department. "This is the concern about the lone wolf, inspired to act without ever going to the Mideast."

The Justice Department has charged roughly 20 people in the past year with planning to travel to the Middle East to fight alongside militants like ISIL. Federal officials have been concerned about Americans going overseas to train with these groups and returning with plots to carry out attacks at home.

Federal prosecutors say Juraboev, 24, first came to the attention of law enforcement in August, when he posted on an Uzbek-language website that propagates the Islamic State ideology.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Northeastern Syria

Attacks

ISIL militants have moved a large group of Christians they abducted to one of their strongholds as fighting raged on Wednesday between the extremists and Kurdish and Christian militiamen for control of a chain of villages along a strategic river in northeastern Syria, activists and state-run media said.

In pre-dawn attacks, the ISIL on Monday attacked communities nestled along the river, seizing at least 70 people, including many women and children. Thousands of others fled to safer areas.

Polanski appears in Polish court at extradition hearing

Filmmaker Roman Polanski, second from right, with his lawyers, arrives at the regional court in his childhood city of Krakow, Poland, Wednesday. Polanski appeared for a hearing concerning a U.S. request for his extradition related to charges of sex with a minor — a case that has haunted him since 1977. Judge Dariusz Mazur took almost nine hours questioning Polanski and his Polish attorneys. He was not expected to make a ruling on Wednesday and scheduled another hearing, buying time to study documents that arrived this week from Switzerland, which in 2010 refused to extradite Polanski.

ALIK KEPLICZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL

Egyptians flee Libya by the thousands

An Egyptian border official says some 20,000 Egyptians have fled Libya since the release of a grisly beheading video by Islamic State militants. The video, showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians, prompted Cairo to launch retaliatory airstrikes and ban Egyptians from travelling to the North African country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan

Avalanches bury homes, kill scores

Avalanches caused by a heavy winter snow killed at least 124 people in northeastern Afghanistan, an emergency official said Wednesday, as rescuers clawed through debris with their hands to save those buried beneath. The avalanches buried homes across four northeast provinces. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jurors explain insanity defence rejection

Jurors who rejected an insanity defence and convicted a former Marine in the deaths of famed "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle and his friend said Wednesday the man's past behaviour undermined his argument that he couldn't tell right from wrong.

After a two-week trial in which jurors heard testimony about defendant Eddie Ray Routh's erratic behaviour, including statements about anarchy, the apocalypse and pig-human hybrids, they convicted him Tuesday night in the deaths of Kyle and Chad Littlefield at a Texas shooting range two years ago.

Juror Christina Yeager told ABC's Good Morning America that Routh displayed a similar pattern in prior run-ins with police — he would become intoxicated and then tell responding officers he was a victim of post-traumatic stress disorder. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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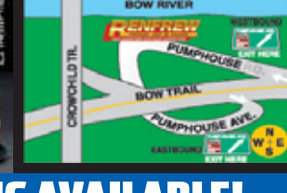

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Writers see e-ink on the wall

As printed books trend downward and e-books take their place, Metro looks at how contemporary authors get paid — or not

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro in Toronto

Last week, Canada's biggest authors penned a strongly worded letter to the country's biggest library. Writers such as Margaret Atwood and Vincent Lam were rattling pens in protest of a policy that allowed the Toronto Public Library to purchase used copies of best-selling titles from the public.

The library claimed the program was needed to reduce waiting lists for popular books, but to the 31 authors who signed the letter, it was another blow to a publishing industry already reeling from "great technological and social change."

"Were the program expanded, we believe it would do harm to writers and publishers depending upon slim and diminishing revenues of their own," the letter read.

Strong words, but are they true? In an age of e-books, Amazon and self-publishing success stories, Metro opens the book on how contemporary writers and publishers are — or aren't — getting paid.

ISTOCK

Public lending rights

$9.7M
The amount paid out to Canadian authors in 2014 through the Public Lending Rights Commission.

Believe it or not, authors in Canada are compensated for having their books in libraries. In addition to the royalties they receive when a library buys their book, they also receive an annual payment from the Public Lending Rights Commission.

The system checks a library's catalogue and notes the presence of a book. Currently, authors get paid the same whether there's one copy or 100 on the shelves, but those who administer the program are looking to change that.

Copyright

Authors are also paid when their works are copied or used by governments, educational institutions or businesses. In Canada, most of this money is collected and distributed by a group known as Access Copyright.

However, John Degen, director of the Writers' Union of Canada, said recent changes to the Copyright Act, such as granting schools greater exemptions, have negatively affected how much money is flowing to authors. Between 2013 and 2014, Access Copyright payments went down nearly 30 per cent, he said. "We've watched a steady decline in the annual average earnings for authors," Degen said. "And I'm sure there are authors in Canada that have just given up because they can't earn a living."

Advances and royalties

The book-publishing industry still functions much as it did before the arrival of the Internet.

Once an author inks a deal with a publisher, he or she is given a cash advance — the more popular a book is expected to be, the larger the advance — and hopes to collect royalties from sales.

According to John Degen (pictured below), director of the Writers' Union of Canada, royalties are set at between 10 and 15 per cent of a book's retail price. Only a select few in Canada earn a living from royalties, Degen said, with most "cobbling together income" from other writing gigs and appearances.

"The reality is that most books don't earn out their advance," he said, noting advances have gotten smaller as publishers become more risk-averse.

"The industry has survived by consolidating and tightening up their contracts," he said. "You need a serious track record of blockbuster sales to get an advance that will give you a living."

$10,000
Average annual earnings from writing made by Canadian authors, according to the Writers' Union of Canada.

Amazon

Amazon accounted for 40 per cent of global book sales in 2014, according to Publishers Weekly.

Degen said some authors see the online retailer's low prices as a race to the bottom, while others are embracing the site as a platform for self-publishing.

"Publishers used to be the gatekeepers and the authors were the supplicants, saying, 'Please publish my book,'" he said. "But now, you can avoid the publishing industry altogether."

Authors who retain their digital rights can sell e-books directly through Amazon and get royalties as high as 75 per cent. Degen believes that is forcing publishers to take better care of their writers.

"We look after our writers as best we can," said House of Anansi's Matt Williams. "It's about more than printing their books. We look after publicity tours and exploit other rights for film as best we can."

E-books

In 2012, the Ontario Media Development Corporation estimated 15 per cent of book sales in Canada were in digital formats, a number expected to at least double by 2018.

House of Anansi vice-president Matt Williams says electronic books cost his firm about 20 per cent less to make than printed books. The result has been higher profits for publishers and higher royalties for authors.

E-book royalties start around 25 per cent, but John Degen, director of the Writers' Union of Canada, says his organization is pushing for more from publishers.

"We've done our own math and we don't see the justification for only 25 per cent," he said. "The cost of making the product is just so much lower."

The future

The Ontario Media Development Corporation says the Canadian publishing industry is still growing at around 1.5 per cent per year. Sales of print books are trending downward, but those losses are offset by the growing e-book market. "The industry isn't going anywhere," said House of Anansi vice-president Matt Williams. "It's contracting in some areas, but it's sure as hell growing in others."

Fight for Keystone XL not yet a pipe dream

Bill vetoed. Obama rejected legislation but says he's reserving judgment on project until review complete

Delayed but not dead: That's the verdict on the fate of the Keystone XL pipeline after U.S. President Barack Obama vetoed a bill to allow construction of the $8 billion cross-border project to go ahead.

The future of the proposal by Calgary-based TransCanada Corp. to carry hundreds of thousands of barrels a day of Alberta oil sands to refineries in Texas is far from decided, observers said.

Obama rejected the Republican-sponsored Congressional bill Tuesday, saying he's reserving judgment on the pipeline until a U.S. State Department review of the project is completed. The six-year review is expected to wind up in a matter of weeks.

TransCanada's president and chief executive officer Russ Girling said in a statement the company remains "fully committed" to the project and "will keep working in good faith" with U.S. regulators, including the Environmental Protection Agency.

Canada's Natural Resources Minister Greg Rickford said the federal government, a pipeline proponent, believes the project will eventually get the go ahead south of the border.

But environmental activists and Midwestern U.S. landowners and native groups opposed to the project said the interim veto is another encouraging sign Obama will ultimately reject the proposal outright. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Opponents of Keystone XL pipeline celebrate the veto by U.S. President Barack Obama outside the White House in Washington. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Budget. More money for vets, projections suggest

The Harper government's road map to this year's federal budget suggests it is prepared to pour more money into programs and services for the country's veterans, while largely holding the line on defence spending.

Treasury Board President Tony Clement released the 2015-16 spending estimates on Tuesday, even though it's unclear when the budget will be tabled.

The government has been under mounting political pressure to improve the suite of benefits and entitlements for ex-soldiers.

The estimates, which are not the final word on the budget, project modest increases in the amount spent on disability awards and supplementary benefits.

Despite that, overall spending at Veterans Affairs is expected to decline by 1.5 per cent — or $54 million — next year, something federal officials attribute to the declining number of Second World War and Korean War veterans.

Final fiscal plan

The Conservative government's final fiscal plan before this year's election was postponed until at least April by Finance Minister Joe Oliver, who said he needed the time to assess the impact of collapsing oil prices.

Veterans Affairs Canada spends just over $3.5 billion per year.

Over at National Defence, another politically charged portfolio, spending is expected to increase by 1.5 per cent — $280 million — in the coming year, bringing the military budget to $18.9 billion.

Officials say they will be saving $709.2 million in capital costs, some of which is likely related to the cancellation of the army's plans for a close-combat vehicle and delays in acquiring maritime helicopters for the air force. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Harper government's road map to this year's federal budget — delayed by Finance Minister Joe Oliver, pictured, to assess the impact of falling oil prices — suggests it is prepared to pour more money into programs and services for veterans, while largely holding the line on defence spending. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Patent dispute

U.S. jury orders Apple to pay $532.9 million

Apple has been ordered to pay nearly $533 million US by a federal jury that found Apple's iTunes music store uses software that infringes on patents held by a Texas company.

An attorney for plaintiff Smartflash LLC praised the verdict. Apple immediately announced plans to appeal and said the case shows the need for Congress to reform the U.S. patent system.

The case involves three patents that Smartflash holds for software used in storing data files and managing access through an online payment system.

The jury agreed with Smartflash's argument that Apple used software based on ideas patented by inventor and Smartflash executive Peter Racz, without permission. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 80.50¢ (+0.47¢)

TSX 15,228.57 (+63.60)

OIL $50.99 US (+$1.71)

GOLD $1,201.50 US (+$4.20)

Natural gas: $2.894 (-0.8¢)
Dow Jones: 18,224.57 (+15.38)

Retail. TJX follows Wal-Mart, hikes pay

The owner of T.J. Maxx, Marshalls and Home Goods stores said Wednesday it will boost pay for its U.S. workers to at least $9 US an hour.

The announcement by TJX Cos. comes a week after Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said it would increase wages for its employees and is a sign that more competitors may follow suit. Low-paying retailers are having a harder time retaining workers as the job market improves.

"This pay initiative is an important part of our strategies to continue attracting and retaining the best talent," CEO Carol Meyrowitz said in a statement.

A recent Credit Suisse report estimates TJX's current hourly pay at about $8.24 US. The federal minimum wage is $7.25 US per hour.

TJX said hourly workers will start to receive the pay increase in June. In 2016, the company plans to pay all associates who have worked at its stores for more than six months at least $10 US an hour.

The company's 191,000 associates around the world restock shelves, greet customers and ring up purchases at the cash register.

Wal-Mart Inc., the world's largest retailer, is raising entry level wages to at least $9 an hour in April and to at least $10 an hour in its Walmart stores by February of next year. It said the change will affect about 500,000 workers.

Also this year, Swedish furniture seller Ikea gave workers at its U.S. division a 17 per cent average raise to $10.76 US an hour. And clothing chain Gap Inc. raised its minimum hourly wage to $9 US last year and to $10 US this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOICES

SAVING FACE

In an effort to showcase diversity with their new emojis, Apple has upset a lot of people. Why does it seem like companies' efforts to be politically correct always backfire?

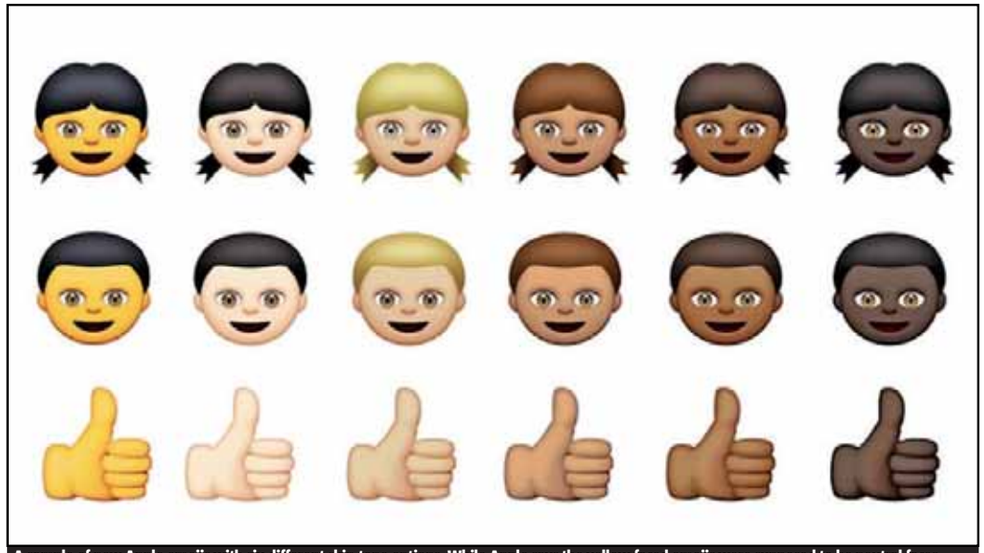
JUSTIN LEE
readers@metronews.ca

Apple unveiled this week a new set of emojis — featuring six different skin tones — coming with its latest update to iOS and OSX. At the end of the proverbial racial rainbow is, in fact, a pot of gold: a luminous yellow face. The move has upset Asian communities around the world, who are criticizing the inclusion of the yellow emoji on social media.

Surely Apple — whose U.S. workforce is 23 per cent Asian — must have seen this backlash coming, considering the long history of racist connotations in describing Asians as "yellow."

But regardless of their approach, the outcome — and outrage — would probably have been the same. Apple's good intentions to be more politically correct would have likely offended someone in the end anyway.

Apple claims the yellow-skinned emojis are not meant to portray Asians, but instead, all the faces are intended to be ethnically neutral — an extension of the smiley-face characters, I suppose. But wouldn't "ghost white" have been more appropriate, without running the risk of it being misconceived as representing an entire race?



A sample of new Apple emojis with six different skin-tone options. While Apple says the yellow-faced emojis were supposed to be neutral faces not depicting any specific race, they've upset many in the Asian community. SCREENGRAB

To their credit, I'm sure Apple was going for a cyber version of the racially harmonious It's a Small World Disney ride, minus the creepy animatronics. In other words, it was trying to play it safe while appealing to a need for a more inclusive representation of all races and ethnicities.

Just imagine the outrage if Apple had included stereotypical facial characteristics, costumes and accompanying props for each race. You know, like the It's a Small World Disney ride.

But maybe this whole thing brings up the larger issue of Western society's constant need to be political correct, and how it can, in fact, worsen the situation.

This fear of offending others by attempting to be more inclusive of all ethnicities and races can often lead to mixed results.

For example, think about the last commercial you saw for a cellphone provider or fast-food restaurant. You know, the one where a group of 20-something faux-hipsters are really enjoying themselves? In every one of these advertisements, there will be — without fail — a carefully calculated, ethnically diverse representation of actors: two white men, two white women, one Asian woman and one black dude. It's not always this exact combination, but you get my point.

The end result feels forced, an obligatory nod to political correctness wherein advertisers can fly under the radar of ethnic activist groups by simply including a couple of visible minorities to round out a mostly all-Caucasian group.

Sometimes over-thinking, just like under-thinking, can lead to unintentionally racist results. And then you're forced to backtrack by saving (yellow) face. Have a nice day.

Justin Lee is a Toronto-based writer, DJ and documentary filmmaker who enjoys exploring music, arts and culture and social issues.

Great that Brown barred, but let's really give him the kiss-off

MELISSA DUNNE
readers@metronews.ca

It's not every day I feel like giving our immigration officials a high five.

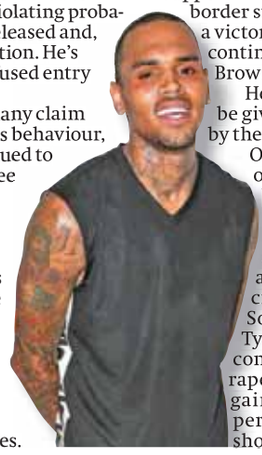
But when news broke that singer Chris Brown was denied entry at our border earlier this week, I felt a surge of patriotic pride.

Our country essentially gave the middle finger to a man who infamously beat singer Rihanna's face to a pulp and yet still makes millions a year as an entertainer.

While the promoter of his concerts in Montreal and Toronto said in a statement the shows were cancelled due to "immigration issues," it likely had more to do with Brown's history of violence. Since he pleaded guilty to felony assault for beating up Rihanna in 2009, he has been embroiled in scandal after scandal.

Just last year after subsequent arrests, Brown was ordered to serve jail time for violating probation before being released and, again, put on probation. He's previously been refused entry into the U.K.

And yet while many claim to be sickened by his behaviour, legions have continued to dole out money to see him perform, and venues continue to host his shows. The stomach-churning photos of Rihanna's bruised visage have not stopped people from buying his albums and going to his concerts — or the music industry from handing him awards and accolades.



In a way, the industry condones his behaviour by continuing to support him. Which is why the border stymie seems like such a victory to those of us who continue to be disgusted by Brown.

He is not the only star to be given the cold shoulder by the True North.

Over the years, everyone from rapper Lil Wayne to actor Wes Bentley to domestic goddess Martha Stewart have been turned away due to their criminal records. Somehow boxer Mike Tyson, who has been convicted of assault and rape, controversially gained entry last year to perform his one-man show in Toronto.

Like Brown, grotesque behaviour did not stop the boxer from commanding large paycheques and crowds.

Despite the actions of Canadian border officials, Brown will continue to make money.

He ominously tweeted: "The good people of the Canadian government wouldn't allow me entry. I'll be back this summer and will hopefully see all my Canadian fans!"

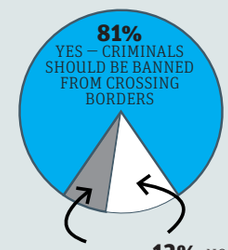
The 25-year-old will likely eventually be back here to perform, unless no one buys tickets to his concerts.

So, fellow Canucks, let's give the Kiss Kiss singer the ultimate kiss-off and stop buying what this awful man is selling.

Melissa Dunne is a freelance writer based in Toronto.

Poll:

SHOULD CHRIS BROWN HAVE BEEN STOPPED FROM ENTERING CANADA?



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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Not doing her time

So remember when Lindsay Lohan's lawyer rushed in proof that she had completed her probation-mandated community service hours while in London? Yeah, about that. As it turns out, Lohan got a little, let's say, creative with what constitutes community service.

According to TMZ, her community service included performing in the West End in Speed-the-Plow, meeting fans afterward and letting kids follow her around. What a mensch. "On one day Lindsay got six hours' credit," prosecutor Terry White complains. "Two of the hours were for her matinee performance and another two were for her evening performance. The remaining two were for a meet-and-greet afterwards." Looks like her selfless giving could land her a probation violation.

Lindsay Lohan ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Is Jamie all done with the whips?

Fifty Shades of Grey is still busy making all of the money, but apparently no amount of success is enough to please star Jamie Dornan, who is reportedly mulling an early exit from the franchise before they can get to adapting the second and third book, according to Australia's NW magazine.

Dornan is said to be wrestling with an intense distaste for all things Grey, and isn't eager to shave off all his facial and chest hair once again and make with flogging Dakota Johnson, according to an anonymous source. "Jamie does not think his performance was bad. Instead he blames Dakota and says it wasn't possible to have chemistry with her," the source insists. "He says Dakota gave him nothing to work with." So I guess his solution is to return the favour?

Jamie Dornan certainly has chemistry with his wife, Amelia Warner.

Conan's got a date with Grindr

Never let it be said Conan O'Brien doesn't suffer for his fans' enjoyment. After successfully navigating Tinder with coach Dave Franco, O'Brien now turns to the gay side with Grindr, the "socializing" app favoured by men seeking men. Along for the ride to help him out is comedian Billy Eichner. Enjoy as O'Brien tries out life as a sugar daddy.

Liza Powel O'Brien and husband Conan O'Brien

What did Ben really say to J.Lo?

Apparently something we all missed at the Oscars was a run-in between exes Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, both on hand to present awards. During a commercial break, Affleck apparently whispered something in Lopez's ear, earning him a playful sock in the arm from his Gigli co-star. And much like Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson in Lost in Translation, we're burning with curiosity as to what he said. Since there's no way to really know, how about some baseless speculation? By all means:

- "I've seen Boy Next Door 17 times."
- "Once you go Affleck, you never go back-fleck."
- "Sometimes I accidentally call my wife by your name."
- "We still use Gigli as our safe word."

Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Margaret Atwood will take part in the third Twitter Fiction Festival. AFP

Twit fic fest features new forms of storytelling

Multimedia. Do you like very, very short stories? This festival of micro publishing may be right up your alley

Lemony Snicket, Margaret Atwood and Jackie Collins will all experiment with micro-publishing during the third Twitter Fiction Festival, which has been announced for May 11 to 15.

When Twitter hosted its first Fiction Festival in 2012, it had already been home to virtual storytelling experiments by authors such as Jennifer Egan and Teju Cole who had shared new work one tweet at a time. The festival puts that storytelling trend in the spotlight and last year featured authors such as Alexander McCall Smith, who offered up four short stories over the course of the festival.

Among other 2014 highlights, American comedians Jim Gaffigan and Michael Ian Black improvised a tale of a trip through Scotland, and Tom Mitchell led a choose-your-own-adventure-style story through London.

On board for 2015 is a roster of more than 20 featured authors, including Chuck Wendig, Beth Cato, Matthew Dunn, Sophie Jordan, Lauren Beukes and Jonathan Evison, with a collective expertise that extends into spy fiction, politics and graphic novels.

Join in

- Starting March 2, anyone can submit an idea for a chance to be a featured participant. Once the event starts, all can take part using the hashtag #TwitterFiction.

The event's website, twitterfictionfestival.com, offers suggestions of formats and tools to use to create your fiction, including generating collaborative fiction via crowdsourcing, launching several handles to tell a narrative through multiple viewpoints or using images and Vine for a multimedia experience. Follow developments and the festival itself via @twfictionfest and using the hashtag #TwitterFiction. AFP

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New books. Ishiguro heads to post-Roman Britain

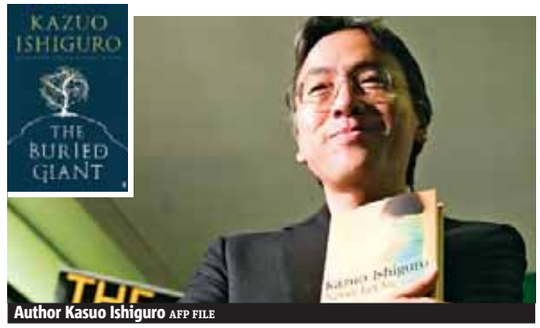
A decade after his most recent novel, the dystopian Never Let Me Go, the Japanese-born British author Kazuo Ishiguro is back with The Buried Giant, a tale of love and vengeance in a mythical, troubled Britain.

Ishiguro is the author of six previous novels, among which one of his best-known is 1989's The Remains of the Day, the source for the Merchant Ivory film of the same name. That book earned the author a Man Booker Prize, for which he's been nominated four times.

Never Let Me Go also became a film, having been adapted for Mark Romanek's 2010 movie starring Keira Knightley and Carey Mulligan.

Whether the author's latest effort will make its way to celluloid is unknown, but a few plot details have been revealed by his publisher and in interviews and reviews leading up to its March 3 release.

Publisher Random House described the book's setting as a time when the "Romans have long since departed and Britain is steadily declining into ruin." AFP



Author Kasuo Ishiguro AFP FILE

Ebooks

Pearson travellers to get free book, music downloads

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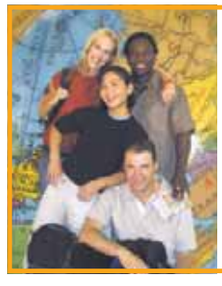

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Hanging with Cooper and Cohen

Lecture series. Two big TV personalities come together for a candid tour

After an initial phone call that still makes them cringe, the television odd couple of Andy Cohen and Anderson Cooper became good friends.

Both men are putting their easy camaraderie on display in a live lecture series this spring. The idea came from Cohen's mother and Cooper's agent, who watched in November when Cooper interviewed Cohen about his book onstage in New York. The series, subtitled Deep Talk and Shallow Tales, starts March 21 in Boston, with later dates in Miami and Chicago and more if the initial run goes well.

Each has travelled career paths that aren't easily defined.

Cooper is best known as the sober, prematurely grey newscaster who travels around the world for CNN and contributes stories to 60 Minutes. He's also tried a daytime talk show, hosted a reality show and teams with comic Kathy Griffin for a ribald New Year's Eve program every year.

Cohen hosts an alcohol-fuelled talk show on Bravo and dishes about the network's famed housewives. But he was a television executive at Bravo and elsewhere, and a producer at CBS News in the mid-1990s, when a mutual friend tried to set him up with Cooper on a blind date.

It got no further than a phone conversation.

"Somewhere during that phone call, we realized this was not meant to be," Cooper said. "This was not going to work out at all."

Now they often go on trips with each other, and Cohen texts Cooper to tell him to keep his head down when CNN sends him on dangerous reporting trips. They don't hesitate to interrupt each other in conversation.

Each man is preparing surprises for his friend to be revealed onstage during the tour, booked into small theatres. They'll talk about their careers, planning to let the audiences dictate much of the agenda by asking questions.

"It gets a little dangerous, because we know where the bodies are buried," Cohen said. "That's why this tour will be fun. It will be very uncensored, and it can go in a million directions."

Like with Griffin each New Year's Eve, the serious newsman part of Cooper betrays a little nervousness about his friend. "I'm just happy to hear Anderson say all this," Cohen said. "He knows what he's signed up for."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From left, Anderson Cooper, Andy Cohen, Benjamin Maisani and Kathy Griffin. Cooper and Cohen are launching a lecture series subtitled Deep Talk and Shallow Tales. It kicks off March 21 in Boston. GETTY IMAGES

Gamers can now get Fast & Furious

Fast & Furious and Forza are hitching a ride together. The hugely successful movie franchise is teaming up with the critically acclaimed Forza racing series for a video game featuring cars and missions inspired by Universal Pictures' Fast & Furious films. "Forza Horizon 2 Presents Fast & Furious" will launch March 27 for Xbox One and Xbox 360. The stand-alone title will be available for free until April 10 to promote the April 3 release of Furious 7, the latest installment in the film series. After that date, the Fast & Furious-themed expansion will cost gamers $10. TEXT AND PHOTO: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New comedy. Jason Jones and Samantha Bee set to launch TBS show

The Daily Show couple Jason Jones and Samantha Bee are heading to TBS with a comedy series based on their harried family life.

The Canadian husband-and-wife team wrote the pilot and serve as executive producers.

The series is inspired by their own getaways and is billed as "an honest and darkly comedic look at family."

The channel says it has ordered 10 episodes of the untitled series, which will star Jones as "unfiltered dad Nate."

Plans call for each season of the show to follow a different family adventure. Jones announced on Twitter that he'll be leaving his gig at The Daily Show to work on the series. "For 9 & 1/2 years, I have worked at one of the greatest TV shows of all time. But… It is time for me to go," he tweeted from the account @jonesinforjason.

"That said, I am ecstatic to announce that I'm about to make another great show over @tbsveryfunny."

TBS says the cast is rounded out by Justified actress Natalie Zea who plays the wife Robin, Louie actress Ashley Gerasimovich will appear as rebellious daughter Delilah, and The Neighbors actor Liam Carroll plays simpleton son Jared.

Production is slated to begin this summer, with an airdate set for later this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BADGLEY MISCHKA FASHION SHOW IN NEW YORK. PHOTO: CHELSEA LAUREN / GETTY IMAGES

LESS IS MORE

The face of this season's fashion month is understated — with models from many must-see shows sporting natural, matte skin, eye colours in earthy tones and a soft, nude lip. Now it's time for you to rule your world's runway.

In recent New York and London fashion weeks, 'au naturel' was the order of the day.

For his Fall 2015 clothing line, Ralph Lauren served up a bevy of effortlessly sophisticated embellishments, tonal hues and rich textures.

The makeup was, in contrast, perfectly wholesome. Lauren's broad spectrum of earthy beauty was a force to be reckoned with — flawless, gleaming skin and untamed brows.

Badgley Mischka models also donned a pale lip that was a contrast to their cat-eye liner. In London this week Burberry unveiled several additions to its cosmetics range.

Models sported warm, matte skin, a sultry smokey eye inspired by natural earthy tones and an understated matte nude lip.

Here are some products to recreate the natural knock-out look:

• Whatever your skin tone, it's time to invest in a new performance BB/CC cream like BareMinerals All-In-One BB, CC, Tinted Moisturizer Cream, released last month.

• Lancôme's cushion cream and Diorskin Nude Air serum offer other luxurious complexion-kind options.

• As Burberry girls Kate Moss and Cara Delevingne know, no makeup bag would be complete without Charlotte Tilbury's Magic Cream, originally formulated to help soothe supermodels' travel-weary skin.

• Inspired by the British luxury label's Patchwork, Pattern and Prints runway show on Monday, Makeup Artistic Consultant Wendy Rowe created Burberry's earthy runway beauty using new Eye Colour Cream shadows in Mink No.102 and Charcoal No.114. AFP

BURBERRY'S BEAUTIFUL EARTHY MAKEUP PHOTO: AFP

BURBERRY KISSES IN NUDE, THE LIPSTICK BEHIND MODELS' UNDERSTATED POUT. PHOTO: AFP

Prefer a bolder look? Here's how to copy Kim Kardashian

It's no secret that Kim Kardashian loves to wear makeup.

The queen of contouring gave an interview to beauty blog Into the Gloss where she shared a laundry list of her favourite beauty products and tools.

She uses Kardashian Beauty Endless Summer Matte Bronzer in Cabana Bronze, and the Anastasia Beverly Hills Contour Kit for her nose and cheeks, she told the Gloss.

Kardashian is also known for her dramatic eyes: she goes to Anastasia Soare of Anastia to get her eyebrows done, and she uses Lancôme Définicils High Definition Mascara along with Kardashian brand false individual lashes.

The reality star also said she is crazy about rose-scented products.

Her By Terry Refreshing Cleansing Gel is rose-scented, and so are the Tracie Martin Shakti Resculpting Body Cream and Epicuren Bulgarian Rose Otto rose oil she likes to use.

As for Kardashian's beauty quirks, Baby North's mom owns an LED light therapy machine called Quasar MD Plus to treat the psoriasis on her legs.

She also claimed that she only washes her hair once every five days.

"We start out with a blowout on day one, then we go into a messier vibe the next day, and then we flat iron it and do a really sleek look on day three since that requires a little oil in the hair. Day four could be a slicked-back ponytail, and on the fifth day is when you wash it." AFP/PHOTO: GETTY

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2014 Accent "Highest Ranked Small Car in Initial Quality in the U.S."*
HWY: 6.3L/100 KM CITY: 8.5L/100 KM*
CH799642
GLS model shown*
2015 ACCENT 4DR L MANUAL
SELLING PRICE: $9,367
DELIVERY & DESTINATION: $1,595
ALL-IN CASH PURCHASE PRICE: $10,962
INCLUDES $4,182 IN FREE TRADE PRICE REDUCTION AND FREE TRADE BONUS
INCLUDES A 60-MONTH LIMITED WARRANTY!

2014 Elantra "Highest Ranked Compact Car in Initial Quality in the U.S."*
HWY: 6.7L/100 KM CITY: 9.7L/100 KM*
CH581782
Limited model shown*
2015 ELANTRA L MANUAL
SELLING PRICE: $10,867
DELIVERY & DESTINATION: $1,595
ALL-IN CASH PURCHASE PRICE: $12,462
INCLUDES $5,132 IN FREE TRADE PRICE REDUCTION AND FREE TRADE BONUS
INCLUDES A 60-MONTH LIMITED WARRANTY!

HWY: 8.3L/100 KM CITY: 11.3L/100 KM*
CH997463
Limited model shown*
2015 TUCSON GL FWD
5-Star Overall Crash Safety Rating*
SELLING PRICE: $18,102
DELIVERY & DESTINATION: $1,760
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HWY: 9.8L/100 KM CITY: 12.9L/100 KM*
CH233072
Limited model shown*
2015 SANTA FE SPORT 2.4L FWD
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Copper stirs up black magic in the kitchen

Ask a designer. Bright ideas for a reader's tiny kitchen dilemma

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

I desperately need to renovate my small U-shaped condo kitchen this spring. Will shiny surfaces like mirror, stainless and glass help make it appear larger? I am not a fan of stainless steel appliances and am wondering what would look best. — Mark H., Edmonton

The trick to making a small kitchen look larger is to use consistent colours and tones throughout: either all light, all medium, or all dark. Look for countertops with a glossy finish that will reflect light. Also consider a stone-like surface that features reflective qualities in its design. In a tiny kitchen, use the same product for the backsplash to reduce the variety of finishes needed. This will make the small space appear seamless and less visually choppy.

Appliances can be black, if choosing a darker-looking kitchen, or white if you're going all light. Whichever appliances you choose, match your cupboard doors and floor tiles in similar tones, either black, grey or white.

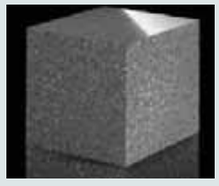
Again, all surfaces should be shiny or glossy to reflect and bounce light around in a tiny space.

Copper-plated faucets and lighting fixtures will add an on-trend metallic colour to the space. Wall paint should match the copper faucets and help to warm up the space.

Glossy cabinets reflect light and help open up small spaces. Grey Abstrakt Kitchen Cabinets, Ikea.ca

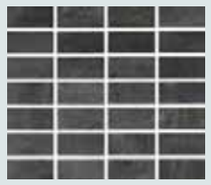
Black is back! 19 cubic-foot Bottom Mount Black Fridge, $1050, Whirlpool.ca

Mixing copper with grey helps to warm up a small space. Danze Opulence Single Handle Pull Down Faucet, $350, Wayfair.com



Countertops and backsplash: Deep grey and metallic sheen create chic counters and backsplashes with the durability of engineered quartz. Silestone Chrome counters, from $200 per linear foot, Silestone.com

Coppertone your walls to get rid of boring neutrals. Caramel Corn 2160, BenjaminMoore.ca



Dark grey flooring will blend nicely into deep grey cabinets. Use a dark grey grout to reduce the lines between the tiles. Elaine Cityscape Carbon Glazed Porcelain Tile, $16.40/sq. ft., HomeDepot.ca

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Design in plastic, it's fantastic

For the French brand Lexon, Catalan designer Eugeni Quitllet has created Dream Tools, a new line of office accessories made entirely of plastic. Quitllet has long been fond of the material, which he returns to time and time again in his designs

AFP

Masters (2009)

Nominated in 2014 for a Compaso d'Oro, one of the most prestigious honours in the design world, the Masters chair was the recipient of a Good Design Award in 2010 and a Red Dot Award in 2013. The surprising seat combines elements of three iconic chairs from modern design history: Eero Saarinen's Tulip chair, Arne Jacobsen's Series 7 and Charles Eames's Eiffel chair. Aside from its elegant silhouette, with its artful balance between solids and voids, the Masters is a symbol of the relationship between Quitllet and Philippe Starck. The Spanish designer is among the rare artists to have co-created an item with the French design celebrity.

KARTELL

Air France Collection (2012)

When invited to create new flatware to be used on Air France flights, Quitllet rose to the challenge of making PS and PP plastic look as elegant as white porcelain. The line manages to combine the light weight required for in-flight use with comfortable ergonomics.

EUGENI QUITLLET POUR AIR FRANCE

Shine (2013)

Despite the name, the Shine collection has nothing to do with lamps and is actually a series of vases. Nonetheless, this line designed for Kartell does live up to its title, as the vases capture and reflect light with their multiple crystal-like facets. Once again, Quitllet manages to elevate plastic far above its low-end reputation.

KARTELL

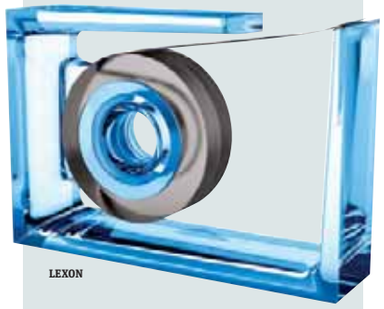
VONDOM

Bum Bum (2014)

More than just furniture, the indoor/outdoor items in Quitllet's Bum Bum collection for Vondom can be transformed into audio and lighting systems. The table, sofa and "toro" stool come with an optional Bluetooth sound system and RGB lights. These hybrid designs span the gap between furniture and connected objects.

Dream Tools (2015)

Quitllet's new line of office accessories for Lexon, Dream Tools, brings a bit of whimsy to the office, like this tape dispenser shaped like a retro camera (the Roll Air and Dream).

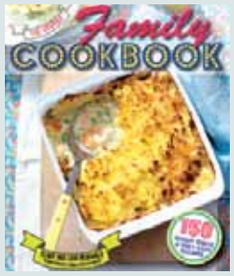


LEXON

Some nights call for morning faves

Cookbook of the Week

Get back to family



Got a bunch of hungry kids to feed after school? Need inspiration for Sunday dinner?

Reach for The Crumbs Family Cookbook. Written by Claire and Lucy McDonald, it contains 150 recipes that range from comfort food to one-pot dishes even the fussiest of eaters will love. Recipes include Pea and Feta Salad, Very Simple Beef Stew and Tortilla Tower. **METRO**

Recipe. Expand your breakfast-for-dinner menu with a pie filled with morning staples

Ingredients

- 2 sheets all-butter shortcrust pastry (215 g/7 1/2 oz each sheet)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 x 400 g (14 oz) tin of baked beans
- Splash of Worcestershire sauce
- 6 good-quality sausages
- 6 rashers/slices of streaky bacon
- 200 g (7 oz) black pudding/ blood sausage
- 200 g (21/4 cups) grated Cheddar
- 1 egg
- 20 cm (8 inch) loose-bottomed cake tin

1. Take pastry out of ridge an hour before you need it, otherwise it is difficult to work with and will crack when unrolled.

2. In a large saucepan, gently fry the chopped onions until they are browned. Drain the beans and give them a quick rinse. You want some of the sauce to stick to them, but not too much, otherwise your pie may end up with a 'soggy bottom.' Add to the onions with a splash of Worcestershire sauce and heat through.

3. In a separate pan, fry the bacon and sausages (don't use oil, as they should be fatty enough) until they are browned. Chop the bacon into small pieces and slice the sausages. (Don't forget, this can all be done the night before, and it is also a good way of using up leftovers.) Stir the cooked meat into the bean mixture and season — go easy on the salt as the meat will be salty enough. Crumble in the black pudding.

4. Put cake tin on one of the pastry sheets and cut around with a knife. This is your pie lid. Grease cake tin, line base with baking paper, and then place the remaining pastry sheet inside. Gently push it down, so it is nice and snug around the bottom and the edges. It won't fit perfectly, but if you trim some of the overhang off you can add it where needed. Smooth out any joins with your fingers. It may look like a patchwork quilt, but don't worry, it will still taste delicious. Pour the filling into the pastry case. Sprinkle on the grated cheese. Place the pie lid on top, and pinch to the sides of the pastry case. Beat the egg and brush the lid with it. Either bake or put in fridge.

5. Preheat the oven to 180 C (350 F; gas mark 4). Bake for 50 minutes. If you made it the night before, then try to remember to take it out of the fridge an hour before cooking. If you don't, you will need to up the cooking time slightly.

6. When cooked, remove from the oven and let it stand for 10 minutes, then take the pie in its tin to the table. Balance it on a tin of baked beans and lower the cake tin. People should start to applaud at this point. Transfer to a plate and cut into wedges. It is nice with eggs on the side. **FROM THE CRUMBS FAMILY COOKBOOK BY CLAIRE AND LUCY MCDONALD. CICO BOOKS, $25.95; RYLANDPETERS.COM**

This recipe for Breakfast Pie serves six. STUART WEST

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Flexible study options at Thompson Rivers U

MBA can be taken online on a part-time basis

Many people think that studying for an MBA means they have to spend long days at a university campus in classes.

Not at Thompson Rivers University.

"As one of the younger universities in Canada, we are not locked into tradition and can offer unparalleled flexibility in the Canadian MBA market," according to Victoria Martin, director of the MBA program.

While students can take their MBA program at the Thompson Rivers' campus in Kamloops, B.C., many choose to take it online as a distance education student.

"It's the same program, courses and curriculum. The only difference is where you physically do the course," says Martin.

Students needing the flexibility to be able to balance their study with work and family and other commitments choose to do the program online — and from where they live. "They're generally mature students balancing family commitments and needing to maintain full-time employment."

The part-time, off-campus student has usually been in the workforce for several years. "They're looking for a promotion, they're leveling out in their career and need to do something to take it further, or they're looking for a new job."

While Thompson Rivers' MBA program takes between 12 to 20 months of full-time study, most students that choose the online study option do it on a part-time basis. In that case, it has to be completed within five years, says Martin.

"All of our students are prepared to make good, strategic decisions for their organizations. We're giving them the skills to step into leadership roles, to see the big picture and to understand the global business environment as well."

Only final exams are done in person. "We find a local testing centre in Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, or Vancouver, and set that all up for them."

For more information, visit tru.ca/mba.

INTERACTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

"We've made the MBA program as interactive as possible," explains Martin. For distance students, instructors use lecture-capture software to record and upload their lectures. Students can watch lectures on their own schedules.

There are also required, online discussion groups, and students work in virtual teams to complete assignments and projects.

CONTRIBUTED

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CFL

Lewis leaves Calgary for Als

The Montreal Alouettes have signed free-agent slotback Nik Lewis to a one-year deal.

Lewis, 32, spent his first 11 seasons with Calgary, registering 805 catches for 11,250 yards and 65 TDs while winning two Grey Cups ('08, '14).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Jets add depth in winger Tlusty

Kevin Cheveldayoff thought the injury-stricken Winnipeg Jets could use a boost in their playoff drive so he pulled off his second trade this month.

The general manager swung a deal to acquire eight-year forward Jiri Tlusty from the Carolina Hurricanes on Wednesday for two draft picks.

Carolina gets a conditional sixth-round pick in this year's NHL draft, but it'll become a fifth-round pick if the Jets make the playoffs. The Canes also get a third-rounder in the 2016 draft. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Blackhawks' Kane out for long term

Blackhawks star Patrick Kane had surgery Wednesday to repair a broken left collarbone, likely sidelining the dynamic forward for the rest of the season unless Chicago makes another deep run in the playoffs.

Kane, who leads Chicago with 27 goals and 37 assists, lost his balance and crashed into the boards after he was cross-checked by Florida defenceman Alex Petrovic with 12:11 left in the first period of Tuesday night's 3-2 shootout victory over the Panthers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Devils goalie Cory Schneider makes a save on a shot by Flames left-winger Jiri Hudler on Wednesday night in Newark, N.J. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flames' comeback reputation upheld

NHL. Calgary's win after falling behind in first ends Devils' four-game winning streak

The Calgary Flames used another comeback to get back into a playoff spot and make the New Jersey Devils' post-season chances that much bleaker.

Sean Monahan scored a power-play goal 35 seconds into the third period and the Flames beat the Devils 3-1 on Wednesday night to move into a Western Conference wild-card spot.

"These were points that we desperately needed," Flames goalie Karri Ramo said after making 26 saves to help the Flames snap a three-game losing streak. "You could see that we were desperate enough to earn a win."

Calgary, which lost 1-0 at the New York Rangers on Tuesday, moved one point ahead of idle Minnesota in the playoff race.

On Wednesday

Flames	Devils
3	1

- **Penguins at Capitals.** Sidney Crosby scored his 20th goal of the season, Evgeni Malkin added three assists, and the Pittsburgh Penguins held on to beat the Washington Capitals 4-3.

Curtis Glencross scored late in the second period to tie it 1-1, and T.J. Brodie added a short-handed, empty-net goal in the final minute for the Flames, who have 19 wins in games in which they have trailed (10 wins) or were tied (nine wins) after two periods.

"Any time you get a goal in the last minute of a period, it gives you a huge momentum swing," Glencross said. "We got that goal and got the momentum."

Monahan's winner was set up in part when Devils defenceman Jon Merrill took a slashing penalty at the end of the second period.

The Flames kept the puck in the Devils end, and Mark Giordano took a pass from fellow defenceman Dennis Wideman, skated to the dot in the right circle, and sent a cross-ice pass that Monahan redirected past Schneider for his 21st goal.

"They're not a team you can sleep on," said Cory Schneider, who made 23 saves but gave up two Calgary goals in a 49-second span bridging the second and third periods. "I think they lead the league in comebacks and they showed again tonight they're opportunistic.

"We gave them an inch on both plays and they took advantage of it."

Former Flame Mike Cammalleri scored his fifth goal in four games for the Devils, who had a season-high, four-game winning streak snapped. They remain eight points behind Boston in the race for the No. 8 spot in the Eastern Conference.

"Every game is more important than the next," Devils president and general manager Lou Lamoriello said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tale of two skips hyping up championships

Curling. All eyes are on John Morris and Kevin Koe ahead of Brier tournament

Two skips from the host city with history between them is a unique storyline of this year's Canadian men's curling championship in Calgary.

The 14-team field also features nine of the 12 Canadian curlers who won gold medals at the last three Olympic Games. A new Team Canada and a pre-tournament qualifier for some provinces and territories constitute radical change for an 88-year-old championship.

The main draw of the 2015 Tim Hortons Brier opens Saturday at the Scotiabank Saddledome, but games start Thursday with the Yukon, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia having to play off to get in.

In terms of hype, it couldn't get much better for the Calgary host committee with two locals skipping teams — John Morris with the first Team Canada entry at the Brier and Kevin Koe calling the shots for Alberta.

The Brier's first Battle of Alberta is Tuesday evening in a round-robin game with potentially more instalments to follow should the teams meet in the playoffs. Both teams are among the tournament favourites alongside Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs, who claimed Olympic gold in Sochi just over a year ago. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kevin Koe will skip Team Alberta at the Brier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MLB

Legend Rivera returns to help out Yankees

Mariano Rivera is back with the New York Yankees as a guest spring training instructor.

Rivera, baseball's career saves leader, arrived at Steinbrenner Field on Wednesday in Tampa, Fla. He retired as a player following the 2013 season.

"I've decided to come back," the 45-year-old joked.

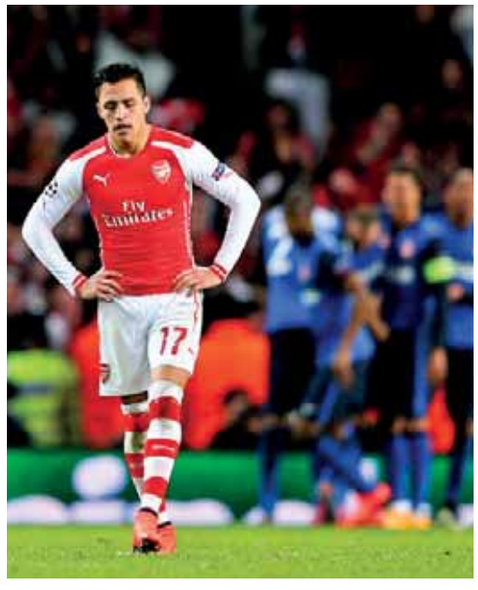
Rivera wore a batting practice uniform with his old No. 42 on it and white pinstripe pants as he worked with pitchers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Bulls fans reeling again after news of Rose surgery

The news that Derrick Rose will have knee surgery again hit the Chicago Bulls and their fans hard and left them in a familiar spot — trying to get by without their star point guard.

The torn meniscus in his right knee was announced Tuesday night, another tough twist for a franchise, a star, his sponsors and a fan base that thought the Bulls were entering another golden era just a few years ago, with the Chicago product leading the renaissance. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Gunned down in first leg

Striker Alexis Sanchez tries to regroup after Arsenal went down 2-0 against Monaco during a Champions League last-16 first-leg match on Wednesday in London. Veteran striker Dimitar Berbatov demonstrated his enduring quality by inspiring Monaco to a surprise 3-1 victory, priming the principality team for a place in the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time in 11 years. CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You won't be shy about telling others what you think but you are expecting too much if you expect everyone to agree with you and you may lose friends.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
According to the planets you will be taking on a lot more duties over the next few weeks. That may not be what you were hoping to hear but it will earn you more respect and money.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Something you hear from a friend will make you wonder if you have taken a wrong turn. Maybe you should retrace your footsteps and start again.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
No matter how annoyed you may be with a particular person this is not the time to put your feelings into words. Hit back only when you have more evidence to make your case.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Partners won't be happy if you go back on what you told them a few days ago. Your priorities have changed but if you made promises you must keep them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You seem to believe the universe is against you but that is not true. Just because you have fallen out with a loved one over something minor does not mean it's the end of the world.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will get the chance to make serious progress in a creative endeavour of some sort. But don't get carried away because there is a lot of work to do yet.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Someone will play on your fears and make you think a situation is worse than it is. According to the planets you should reject everything you hear that makes you feel uneasy.

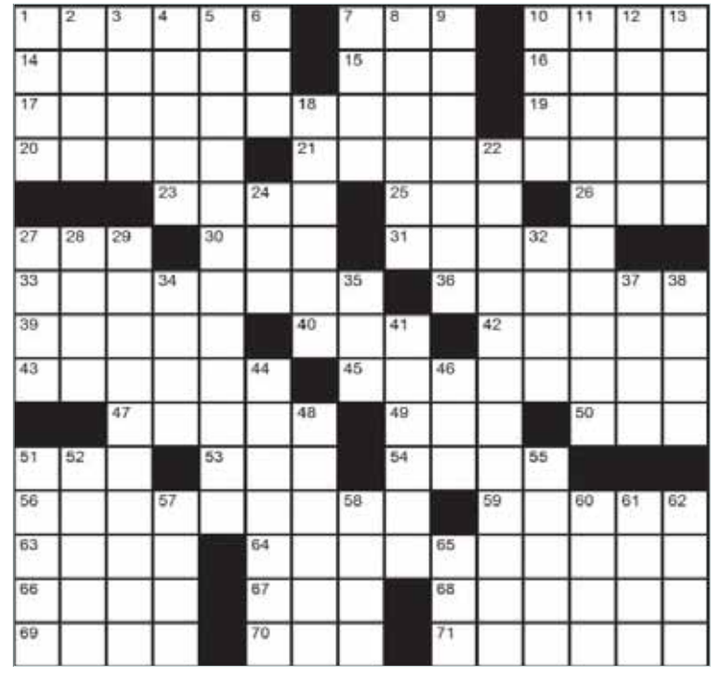
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will have words with someone whose personality rubs you the wrong way. Less timid souls might keep their opinions to themselves. Why should you when you're the one in the right?

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make the most of your newfound freedom to get out into the world and explore. Do something you have not been able to do for some time today.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The only danger today is you might say too much and tip off a rival about what you are up to. Be wary if they try to engage you in personal conversation.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will get advice from all directions today and if you are smart you will ignore it all. You already know what it is you should be doing. So, do it!

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across

1. Accounting reviews
7. Passenger's proof, puny-ly
10. 'Trillion'-meaning prefix
14. Noel Coward play, __ Spirit (Currently at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto)
15. Poetic contraction
16. Bygone boy-friends, briefly
17. BC community near Langley
19. Performs
20. 1871 premiere city of Aida
21. Nunavut: __ Island
23. Certain curtain
25. Egyptian cobra
26. Batch
27. Religious robe
30. Dog type
31. "Eating __" (1982)
33. Terry David __, Canadian broad-caster/actor who is an alum of MuchMusic
36. Busybodies
39. Cooking, as potatoes
40. Kander and __ (Stage musicals song-writing team)
42. Opera voice
43. Kelly Clarkson's "__ Like Us"
45. Saw sort
47. Retro synthesizers
49. Bow
50. Agree-er's vote
51. Post-WWII female mil. aviators group
53. "That's splendid!"
54. Zeds alternatives
56. __ Head: According to The Flat Earth Society, it (located on Fogo Island, Newfoundland) is one of the four corners of the flat earth
59. Ranch sound effect
63. Fertilizer component
64. King Arthur's furniture piece: 2 wds.
66. Common seasoning
67. 'Guitar' suffix
68. Mr. Hammer's
69. Payola$ singer Paul
70. Acidity measures, commonly
71. Puts into disarray

Down

1. Rhyming pattern
2. "The Producers" (2005) role
3. "Little __ _ know..."
4. Roman roads
5. They might add pops of colour to a sofa: 2 wds.
6. Part [abbr.]
7. Wrench
8. Bulletproof vest fibre
9. Forest fluid: 2 wds.
10. Winnipeg Jets
11. Governor General of Canada: His __ the Right Honourable David Johnston
12. Ode-to-the-past style
13. Holding
18. Music style
22. Highlights/scores and more program on TSN
24. Jul. follower
27. Draw _ __ (Do cartography)
28. Car mechanic's job
29. Rural village in Ontario's Prince Edward County
32. Slangy one-eighty turns
34. Bev. Hills clinic request
35. US TV channel
37. Casanova
38. Mlle. cousin
41. Audacious
44. Vain vacay: 2 wds.
46. State above Calif.
48. Nike logo
51. George _. __, 43rd President
52. Wide assortment
55. Tailoring lines
57. Pen brand, with Paper
58. __ and bolts
60. Nile wader
61. Hilarity
62. __ Village, in Hamilton
65. Beaver's construction

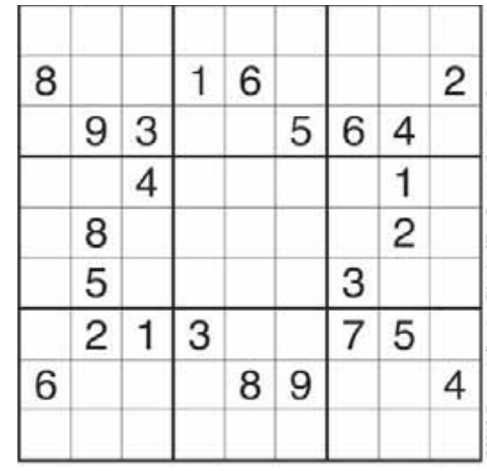
Yesterday's Crossword

Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

7	5	3	6	8	1	9	2	4
6	9	2	7	4	3	1	8	5
1	8	4	5	2	9	6	3	7
2	6	7	1	3	5	4	9	8
3	1	8	9	7	4	2	5	6
9	4	5	8	6	2	3	7	1
8	7	9	3	1	6	5	4	2
5	2	1	4	9	8	7	6	3
4	3	6	2	5	7	8	1	9

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